

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9003

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PFOR

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM, COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CEPICIES COUNTRY REVIEWS ARE INDEED A USEFUL OAS FUNCTION, AND WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT THEY NOT BE ELIMINATED. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS NICARAGUA WOULD MAKE SUCH PROGRESS AS THEY NOW DO IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING WERE IT NOT FOR THE DISCIPLINE PROVIDED BY WELL-STRUCTURED REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY THEIR PEERS. THE REVIEWS PROVIDE A USEFUL FORUM FOR RAISING ISSUES THAT COULD NOT COMFORTABLY BE TREATED ON A BILATERAL BASIS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT MOVING THE FUNCTION TO ANOTHER AGENCY SUCH AS THE IDB WOULD REPRESENT A STEP BACKWARD. SINCE THE OAS ITSELF IS NOT ENGAGED IN LENDING ACTIVITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BEYOND LIMITED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IT REPRESENTS A MORE NEUTRAL FORUM THEN ANY INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTION COULD.

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FURTHER, THE CEPICIES STAFF THAT WE DEAL WITH IS FULLY PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTED

BY NICARAGUAN PLANNING PERSONNEL. THUS,
IF ANY CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE IN THE PROCESS,
WE WOULD OPT FOR ALTERNATIVE NO. 3 AND UP-
DATING AND IMPROVING THE PROCESS WITHIN THE OAS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO LIKELY HOST COUNTRY RE-
ACTIONS, WE SUSPECT THAT ELIMINATION OF THE
COUNTRY REVIEWS WOULD BE GREETED BY A SIGH
OF RELIEF BY THE WORKING LEVEL PLANNERS BUT
WOULD BE OPPOSED BY THE HIGHER LEVEL OFFICERS
WHO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THE DISCIPLINE
INVOLVED IN SUCH PERIODIC REVIEWS. WE ALSO
THINK THAT THE GON WOULD BE LARGELY NEUTRAL
AS TO WHETHER THE REVIEWS WERE MOVED TO ANOTHER
AGENCY AND UPDATED OR SIMPLY UPDATED WITHIN THE OAS.
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